

Bouteloua gracilis - Carex filifolia Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Blue Grama - Threadleaf Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Blue Grama - Threadleaf Sedge Shortgrass Prairie
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Short sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.e.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Herbaceous Alliance
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is found in eastern Wyoming.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community occurs on ridgecrests on Bureau of Land Management lands northwest and south of the NHS.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is typically found on level to rolling ridges and upper slopes of any aspect. Soil texture is medium to coarse with few stones. Bare soil is common (Thilenius et al. 1997).

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community occurs on high, narrow ridgecrests on small cobbles of Miocene age (Love and Christiansen 1985).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Statum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> , <i>Carex filifolia</i>

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

<u>Statum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Carex filifolia</i> , <i>Paronychia depressa</i> , <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> , <i>Heterotheca villosa</i> , <i>Hymenopappus acaulis</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Bouteloua gracilis, *Carex filifolia*

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Paronychia depressa, *Heterotheca villosa*, *Hymenopappus acaulis*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Bouteloua gracilis and *Carex filifolia* are both dominant members of the herbaceous stratum. *Stipa comata*, *Calamovilfa longifolia*, *Artemisia frigida*, *Comandra umbellata* ssp. *pallida*, and *Astragalus spatulatus* can also be found. Short shrubs, such as *Rhus trilobata* and *Yucca glauca*, are sometimes scattered in this community.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community is forb-rich (in comparison with other grassland types). The herbaceous stratum is quite low (typically less than 20 cm in height) with variable cover ranging from 10 to 75%. On broader ridgecrests, soils may be cobbly, but herbaceous cover is greater, with grass species dominant.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G3?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEG001757

COMMENTS

Globally

This type may be a variant of *Stipa comata* - *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Carex filifolia*. Further review is needed on their relationship.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Stands at Fort Laramie NHS do not fit well within the global type description. Further review of the global type is needed to determine if they should be placed in a separate (possibly new) community or if they fall within the variation of the current global type.

REFERENCES

Love, J. D. and A. C. Christiansen. 1985. Geologic Map of Wyoming. U.S. Geologic Survey.

Thilenius, J. F., G. R. Brown, and A. L. Medina. 1997. Vegetation on semi-arid rangelands, Cheyenne River Basin, Wyoming. General Technical Report RM-GTR-263. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO. 60 pp.